

# CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

## SCHEDULE OF NEPA PROPOSED ACTIONS

January 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001

### SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

#### **Forest Plan Revision**

**Location:** Chugach National Forest, southcentral Alaska.

**Description:** The Forest is revising its Land Management Plan. The original Plan was completed in 1984. Changes to environmental, social, or legal conditions will be integrated into the revised Plan.

**Scoping Status:** Formal scoping commenced with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on April 21, 1997 (Volume 62, Number 76). Preliminary revision issues were identified in the first edition of the Revision newsletter. During the months of November and December 1997, public workshops were conducted throughout southcentral Alaska. Over 1,000 letters, containing over 3,000 comments, were received during the scoping period. Analysis of those comments was used to identify the significant issues. The significant issues have been described as 'situation statements' and 'Public/Agency Interests'. The Situation Statements involve Public interests, which may be mutually exclusive, with a range of possible ways for resolution. A summary of public interest and situation statements was sent out to participants on the revision mailing list. Management Area Prescriptions were developed in response to the situation/interest statements. Collaborative Learning workshops were conducted in March 1999, to seek input from the public for formulating draft alternatives. The prescriptions were applied to various areas around the Forest to develop a range of alternatives.

**Analysis Status:** There were 30 alternatives developed by the Forest Service, other agencies, and groups and members of the public. The Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team created eight draft alternatives. Individuals and group representatives of the public submitted twenty-two alternatives. On December 19, 1999, the Chugach National Forest Supervisor Dave Gibbons approved a range of six alternatives, A through F, along with the existing "No Action" Alternative to be analyzed in detail. Alternatives 6 and 13 were to be included also, but not analyzed in detail. From this range of alternatives, a single preferred alternative was derived. The draft preferred alternative map was completed, and posted May 2000 on the Chugach Forest Revision Website ([www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/revision/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/revision/)). The draft EIS and revised Forest Plan were posted on the Revision Website in August 2000.

**Decision Date:** The Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement were released for public comment, and posted in the Federal Register on September 15, 2000 with the comment period running through December 14, 2000. Over 30,000 cards and letters were received during the comment period. Depending upon the number of changes that are required in the draft documents, the Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement are scheduled for completion September 2001. The Regional Forester is the Responsible Official for the Revision of the Forest Plan.

**Contact Person:** Gary Lehnhausen, Forest Supervisor's Office, (907)-271-2560.

**Oil Spill Trustee Council Project.**

**Location:** Western Prince William Sound, Southcentral Alaska.

**Description:** The Auke Bay Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service proposes to sample approximately 120 beaches in Prince William Sound to determine the amount of *Exxon Valdez* oil residue remaining in the upper intertidal areas, and determine recovery trends. The sample sites were selected randomly from the more than 700 sites that were classified as heavily or moderately oiled by previous shoreline surveys. Pits (approximately 20 x 20 x 20 inches) will be excavated by hand at tide heights 6-16 feet. No pits will be in the vegetative zone above the high tide line or within the lower intertidal zone where biological production is greatest. Another 10 beaches will be chosen from those suggested by residents of the area. The number of total pits to be dug will be less than 10,000. After retaining a small amount of sediment to determine quantity and character of any oil in some samples, the pits will be refilled. Sampling will occur May through August 2001.

**Scoping Status:** Community meetings will be held in Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Cordova, and Valdez in early February to discuss the project and ask residents to identify beaches of continued concern..

**Analysis Status:** In Progress.

**Decision Date:** The signing official is the Director of National Marine Fisheries Service, with an expected decision in Spring 2001.

**Contact Person:** Pat Harris, Auke Bay Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, Alaska 99301 or [pat.harris@noaa.gov](mailto:pat.harris@noaa.gov), or Ken Holbrook, Chugach National Forest, 271 2819.

CORDOVA RANGER DISTRICT

612 Second Street, Cordova, AK 99574-0280  
(907) 424-7661

CALVIN O. BAKER  
District Ranger

1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
<b>NEW PROJECT</b>  Cassandra Oil Katalla Area Remote Sensing  Categorical Exclusion..	East Copper River Delta, Cordova Ranger District.	A geophysical survey on 38 sights, using Non Intrusive Remote Sensing Techniques, is proposed for the Katalla area. Transportation is by helicopter. The proposal is linked to the 1982 CNI (CAC) Agreement and Katalla Oil and Gas rights.	Scoping began November 2000.	Project analysis began December 2000.  CZMA-FAA (3)	Decision memo, CE. January, 2001  District Ranger.	Bob Behrends Bruce Campbell (907) 424-7661
<b>New Project</b> Cassandra Oil Access and Drilling Plans Environmental Assessment	East Copper River Delta near Katalla. Cordova Ranger District	Provide access to Private Land where Cassandra Oil proposes to conduct directional oil drilling into National Forest under the 1982 CNI Agreement (Katalla Oil and Gas Rights).	Scoping began January 2001	Project analysis began January 2001. CZMA – FL/P (1)	Environmental Assessment May 2001 District Ranger	Bob Behrends (907)-424-7661

\* See CZMA category definitions on page 9.

## CORDOVA RANGER DISTRICT

1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
<b>New Project</b>  Cordova District Office Phase IV Remodeling  Categorical Exclusion	612 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Cordova, Alaska	Final phase of office remodeling, including the building exterior, window replacement, and related projects.	Scoping began December 2001	Analysis is in progress.  CZMA – FAA (3)	Decision memo, categorical exclusion.  District Ranger	Bob Behrends Cal Baker  (907) 424-7661
Million Dollar Bridge Recreation Site Plan.  Environmental Assessment.	Milepost 48, Copper River Highway.	A recreation site plan for Childs Glacier and Million Dollar Bridge is being developed to incorporate and facilitate changes due to increasing tourism use.	Began 1/99. Additional public meetings TBA	In progress. Analysis will be conducted winter 1999 through summer 2000.  CZMA-FAA (1)	May 2001  District Ranger.  (4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr, 2000 SOPA incorrectly showed decision in Sept. 2000.)	Bob Behrends Dixon Sherman (907)-424-7661
Cutthroat Trout Habitat Enhancement.  Categorical Exclusion.	Tributaries of Mile 18 Creek 18 miles east of Cordova.	Small rock and log structures would be built to increase pool habitat for cutthroat trout juvenile rearing and winter habitat.	Scoping will begin January 2001	Project analysis began October 2000.  CZMA-FAA (3)	Decision Memo. May 2001  District Ranger.	Ken Hodges (907) 424-4738
Quadra Creek Fish Habitat Improvement.  Categorical Exclusion.	Quadra Creek, Hanning Bay, Montague Island.	Logs and other woody material would be placed in streams to improve fish habitat. Natural input of wood is lacking because the riparian area was logged.	Scoping will begin January 2001.	Project analysis will begin January 2001.  CZMA-FAA (3)	Decision Memo May 2001  District Ranger.	Merlyn Schelske (907) 424-4739

\* See CZMA category definitions on page 9.

## CORDOVA RANGER DISTRICT

1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
Stream bank Restoration Along ORV Trails.  Categorical Exclusion	Hawkins, and Hinchinbrook Islands.	Off road vehicle use has damaged stream banks at crossing areas. Banks would be revegetated and bridges would be built over smaller streams to reduce erosion and sediment input.	Scoping will begin January 2001.	Project analysis will begin January 2001.  CZMA-FAA (3)	Decision Memo May 2001  District Ranger.	Merlyn Schelske (907) 424-4739
Riparian Vegetation Management.  Categorical Exclusion.	Mile 18, Copper River Highway, east of Cordova; Hanning Creek, Montague Island.	Crowded stands of Sitka spruce would be thinned to accelerate growth and/or encourage deciduous shrubs adjacent to streams. Purpose of project is to improve fish habitat in streams within logged or disturbed areas.	Scoping will begin January 2001.	Project analysis will begin January 2001.  CZMA-FAA (3)	Decision Memo May 2001  District Ranger.	Ken Hodges (907) 424-4738
Alaganik Access Trail  Environmental Assessment.	Off Alaganik Road, 20 miles SE of Cordova.	Construct ½mile of single-plank boardwalk trail to improve fishing access and prevent further damage to wetland vegetation.	Scoping will begin January 2001.	Project analysis began October 2000.  CZMA-FAA (1)	Decision Notice February 2001  District Ranger.	Ken Hodges (907) 424-4738
Issue and Reissue a Variety of Outfitter-Guide and other Special Use Permits.	Lands administered by the Cordova Ranger District, at various locations in eastern Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta.	Numerous special use permit applications and permit renewals such as commercial videography, temporary installations of monitoring equipment, navigational aids, geologic survey work, encampments, and outfitter and guide services.	As needed.	A "Recreation Use Carrying Capacity Analysis" (completed August 1994) is used to evaluate hunting outfitter and guide permit requests. CZMA class dependent on permit.	Decisions are made through the year as each application or request is evaluated. CZMA class dependent on permit.	Dixon Sherman Bruce Campbell (907) 424-7661

\* See CZMA category definitions on page 9.

GLACIER RANGER DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 129, Girdwood, AK, 99587-0129  
(907) 783-3242

DEIDRE ST. LOUIS  
District Ranger

1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
Portage Valley Bunkhouse Construction. Environmental Assessment.	Portage Valley.	Construct a new Forest Service bunkhouse in Portage Valley near the Begich Boggs Visitor Center.	Began March 1999.	Complete. CZMA-FAA (1)	<b>DECISION 10/12/00</b>  District Ranger.	Cliff Fox (907) 783-3242
Alder Pond Day Use Recreation Site Development. Environmental Assessment.	Portage Valley.	Develop a shoreline trail, picnic area, parking area, and waste disposal site.	Began January 1999.	Analysis suspended. Need will be reevaluated.  CZMA-FAA (1)	Not set.  District Ranger.	Cliff Fox (907) 783-3242
Backcountry Freeskiing World Tour Recreation Event and commercial motion picture filming.  Special Use Permit.  Categorical Exclusion.	Only the locations of previously approved helicopter ski activities will be considered. The areas are likely to be between Twentymile Valley and Grandview.	Recreation event special-use permit for backcountry freeskiing for several days in March, involving up to 150 people. A Safety Director and safety crew of experts would be involved in avalanche control work that includes use of explosives. The Alaska Railroad and helicopters would be used to transport people to the event. Additionally a motion picture company is requesting to film professional skiers and snowboarders in remote alpine locations in February and March 2001.	Began November, 2000	Scoping complete. Analysis in progress.  CZMA-FL/P (2)	February, 2001  District Ranger.	Teresa Paquet or Deidre St. Louis (907) 783-3242
Issue and reissue a variety of outfitter-guide and other special use permits.	Lands administered by the Glacier Ranger District.	Numerous special use permit applications and permit renewals such as commercial filming, recreation events, and outfitter-guides.	Ongoing, as applications are received.	Ongoing.  CZMA-FL/P (2)	Decisions will be made at various times by the District Ranger.	Mary Kay Vandiver (907) 783-3242

\* See CZMA category definitions on page 9.

SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT  
334 Fourth Avenue, Seward, AK 99664-0390  
(907) 224-3374

MICHAEL R. KANIA  
District Ranger

1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
Mine Adit survey and closure. Categorically Excluded Action, with decision Memo.	Various locations on the Seward Ranger District.	Survey for ownership. Close abandoned adits.	In progress.	In progress. CZMA – FAA (3)	Decision Memo signed in November 2000.  District Ranger	William Shuster 907-224-3374
Reforestation of spruce bark beetle impacted stands. Environmental Analysis, depending on results of scoping.	Areas identified in Spruce Bark Beetle Management Plan.	Hand planting or seeding areas where spruce mortality is high. Some sites may require scarification or site prep prior to planting.	Began May 2000.	In Progress. CZMA – FAA (3)	December 2000  District Ranger	Mark Kromrey (907) 288-3178
East Kenai Lake Prescribed Burn. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Cooper Landing area T4N, R2W, sect, 6, 7, 8, and 17.	Burn approximately 200 acres of bark beetle infested and dead white spruce to reduce wildfire potential and improve wildlife habitat. An additional 300 acres of mixed spruce, alder and alpine may also be burned within the project boundary.	In progress.	In progress. CZMA – FAA (3)	Winter 2000.  District Ranger	Susan Howell (907) 224-3374.
Palmer Creek Prescribed Burn Unit. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Hope area T9N, R2W, Section 23 and 24 S.M.	Burn approximately 200 acres of beetle infested and dead white spruce to reduce wildfire potential and improve wildlife habitat. An additional 700 acres of mixed spruce/hemlock may be burned within the project area. Unit may be pre-felled before burning	Begin January 2001.	In Progress CZMA-FAA (3)	December 2001  District Ranger	
Cooper Creek Erosion Control. Categorical Exclusion.	East side of confluence of Cooper Creek and Kenai River. T5N, R3W, Sec 31.	Reduce sediment movement from cut bank to Cooper Creek and Kenai River.	Begin Summer 2000.	In Progress. CZMA – FAA (4)	February 2001.  District Ranger	William Shuster (907) 224-3374

\* See CZMA category definitions on page 9.

## SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
Grant Lake Mine Exploration Project. Decision Memo or Environmental Assessment/Decision Notice depending on results of scoping.	Old Case Mine at Grant Lake, T5N, R1E, Sec 29, Seward Meridian, Moose Pass area.	Evaluate exploration activities at the Case Mine. Possible bulk sampling and core drilling at up to 5 sites is proposed. Maintenance work on existing access is also being considered.	In Progress.	In Progress.  CZMA – FL/P (1)	March 2001.  District Ranger	Donna Peterson (907) 224-3374
Snow River Private Road Special Use Permit.	Snow River, T3N, R1E, sec. 19 & 30, S.M.	Landowner proposes to construct a road to access private property. The year round road would parallel the railroad for approx 1 mile. Driving surface would be 12 feet with 18-foot clearing limit. It would traverse backwater streams, sloughs, and silt deposits along the lower Snow River.	Begins August 2000.	In process.  CZMA – FL/P (1)	March 2001  Forest Supervisor	Karen O'Leary (907) 224-3374
Outfitter/Guide 1 year Special Use Permit for 2001 season.  Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Godwin Glacier near Seward, T1S, R1E, sec. 3, S.M.	Permit renewal for Godwin Glacier Dogsled Tours involving summer base camp on Godwin Glacier, dog sled tours, and helicopter trips providing transportation to and from the base camp from Seward Airport. (Previous SOPA listed this action as an Environmental Assessment with Decision Notice. The District has decided to analyze one more 1 year permit and include analysis for a 5 year permit for this action in a Forest wide Helicopter EIS this next year.).	Begins January 2001.	In progress.  CZMA – FL/P (1)	April 2001.  District Ranger	Karen Kromrey (907) 224-3374
Outfitter Guide Special Use Permits. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Resurrection Pass, Devil's Pass, and Summit Creek Trails.	Decide whether to authorize additional guided use, including hiking, mountain bike riding, horses, and llamas. If decision is made to authorize additional use, interested outfitter guides will compete for limited permits.	Scoping on issues began 1/19/99 and was completed 3/10/99.	In Progress.  CZMA – FL/P (2)	May 2001.  District Ranger	Karen Kromrey (907) 224-3374

\* See CZMA category definitions on page 9.

## SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

4th Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
Resurrection Pass Trail Reconstruction. Categorically Excluded or EA/Decision Notice.	Mile 5, north end of Resurrection Pass Trail to Mile 3, Devils Pass Trail.	Reconstruct deteriorating trail tread and realign segments of the trail at various locations.	Began January 2000.	In Progress.  CZMA – FAA (4)	Winter 2001  District Ranger	Pat O'Leary or Irene Lindquist (907) 224-3374
District Campgrounds Rehabilitation and Upgrade. Categorical Exclusion or EA, depending on scoping.	Cooper Creek, Ptarmigan Creek, Trail River, Tenderfoot Creek, Primrose Creek, Porcupine Creek, and/or Coeur d'Alene Campgrounds.	The 30+ years old facilities will be evaluated for improvements including upgrades for accessibility, expansions to increase available sites on the Kenai Peninsula, and to accommodate larger camping vehicles.	Began January 2000.	In Progress.  CZMA – FAA (4)	Spring 2001.  District Ranger	Karen O'Leary (907) 224-3374
Reconstruct Rainbow Lake Trail. Categorical Exclusion with Decision Memo or EA/Decision Notice, depending on scoping.	Cooper Lake/ Snug Harbor Road	Reconstruct trail to an accessible standard.	Began January 2000.	In Progress.  CZMA – FAA (3)	April 2001.  District Ranger	Pat O'Leary (907) 224-3374
Hope Highway Fuel Reduction Project. Environmental Assessment with Decision Notice.	Hope Highway, Mile 1 – 6, 10 – 15.	Reduce fire hazard by removing fuels (dead spruce trees) along Hope Highway.	Began in Summer 2000.	In progress.  CZMA – FAA (1)	June 2001.  District Ranger	Karen Kromrey (907) 224-3374
Fuller Prescribed Burn. Categorical Exclusion Action, with Decision Memo.	Cooper Landing area T5N, R4W, sect. 28, S.M.	Burn approximately 120 acres of bark beetle infested and dead white spruce to reduce wildfire potential and improve wildlife habitat.	In progress.	In progress.  CZMA – FAA (3)	Spring 2001.  District Ranger	Susan Howell (907) 224-3374
Resurrection Creek 10-11 Prescribed Burn. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Hope area, T9N, R2W, Sect. 9 and 16 S.M.	Burn approximately 700 acres of beetle infested and dead white spruce to reduce wildfire potential and improve wildlife habitat. An additional 300 acres of mixed spruce/hemlock may be burned within the project area. Unit may be pre-felled before burning	Begin January 2001.	In progress CZMA-FAA (3)	Spring/Summer 2001.  District Ranger	Susan Howell (907) 224-3374

\* See CZMA category definitions on page 9.



## SEWARD RANGER DISTRICT

4th Quarter, 2001

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SCOPING STATUS	ANALYSIS STATUS AND CZMA CATEGORY*	DECISION DATE AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY	CONTACT PERSON
Exit Glacier Winter Trail Categorical Exclusion.	Adjacent to the Exit Glacier Road near Seward.	Reduce winter recreation user conflicts along Exit Glacier Road.	Began Summer 2000	In Progress. CZMA – FAA (3)	Spring 2001. District Ranger	Dan Lentz (907) 224-3374
Turnagain Slate Rock Lease Site	Slate Deposit at Mile 11.5 of the Hope Highway.	District is exploring the possibility of issuing a lease for the removal of slate for use in the decorative stone market.	Begin January 2001.	In Progress. CZMA – FL/P (1)	June 2001. District Ranger	Donna Peterson (907) 224-3374
Hardwood Regeneration Project. Categorically Excluded Action, with Decision Memo.	Snow River Bridge, T3N, R1E, Sec. 19, 30, 31; Cooper Landing, T5N, R4W, Sec. 25, 30; Hope, T10N, R2W, Sec. 34; & T9N, R2W, Sec. 3.	Mature stands of birch, willow, and aspen up to 10 acres in size, will be felled to improve habitat for bald eagles, northern goshawks, snowshoe hares and moose. Sites may be scarified, planted, or burned after felling.	Ongoing as opportunities arise.	In Progress. CZMA – FAA (3)	Decisions will be made at various times by the Seward District Ranger.	Susan Howell (907) 224-3374
Special Use Permits. Categorical Exclusion.	Various locations on the Seward District.	Several new and existing special use permit applications for such activities as log storage sites, outfitter/guide operations and recreation events will be evaluated.	Ongoing, as applications are received.	Ongoing. CZMA – FL/P (2)	Decisions will be made at various times by the Seward District Ranger	Karen O'Leary (907) 224-3374
Mining Plans of Operation. Categorically Excluded with Project File or Decision Memo. Type of document depends on results of scoping.	Various locations on the Seward District.	Evaluation of mining plans for small placer and hardrock operations. The activity usually occurs in the following drainages: Quartz, Canyon, Mills, Juneau, John's, Primrose, Porcupine, Victor, Falls, Sixmile, Crescent, Stetson, Bear, Gulch, Diane, Cooper, Silvertip, Palmer, Pass Fresno, Resurrection and Lynx.	Scoping is continuous as plans are received.	Ongoing. CZMA – FL/P (2)	Decisions will be made at various times by the Seward District Ranger.	Donna Peterson (907) 224-3374.

**\*Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) categories.**

FL/P = Federal License or Permit (15 CFR 930.50):

- (1) Applicant must provide a consistency certification to the Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination (DGC) and obtain DGC approval before FS can issue permit.
- (2) ACMP consistency certification normally not required.

FAA = Federal Agency Activity (15 CFR 930.30):

- (1) FS will provide either a consistency determination or negative determination to DGC.
- (2) The project is generally consistent with the Alaska Coastal Mgt. Program (ACMP).
- (3) FS does not expect to provide a consistency determination or a negative determination.
- (4) FS has not decided whether it intends to provide a consistency determination.